

Report to the Citizens of the City of New Bedford on the Year 2008

Published March 19, 2009



Scott W. Lang, Mayor

Report to the Citizens of New Bedford

By Mayor Scott W. Lang

Highlights of City Government Activities in

2008

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March 19, 2009

Dear Residents of New Bedford,

During the course of the past three years, my administration has worked diligently to build trust and confidence in your local government by increasing transparency and accountability. The City of New Bedford continues to operate at the highest standard of government-in the best interests of the people. This report, like the others I have previously published, is designed to inform the people of New Bedford of the progress made by city government toward key objectives. Charting and documenting New Bedford's progress is not just the responsibility of city leadership but it is characteristic of a government that truly serves its people. An informed, engaged citizenry will play an essential role in New Bedford's continued growth and development and I remain committed to overseeing an open, transparent municipal government with the full participation of the public.

For the past three years, my administration has remained committed to the following key objectives:

- Make our city safe again
- Prepare our children for the challenges of the future, in both education and in becoming productive citizens
- Create more and better job opportunities through economic development
- Restore the vitality of our neighborhoods
- Manage our city in the most effective and economical way
- Build a sense of community

None of the milestones described in this report could have been reached without the commitment and creativity of thousands city residents, city employees and elected officials. The city of New Bedford continues to be a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Now, let us focus our energy on exploring new ideas and pursuing new opportunities to sustain this forward progress. As we enter 2009, it is clear that the national and state economic crisis has begun to affect our local economy. I am confident, however, that we will all work together to sustain our progress to see New Bedford resume its role as a leader in our state and region.

The pages that follow contain a comprehensive overview of the achievements New Bedford has made over the past year.

My best wishes to you and your family.

Sincerely,



Scott W. Lang
Mayor

NEIGHBORHOODS & HOUSING

Restoring the Vitality of our Neighborhoods

2008 Overview:

The revitalization of New Bedford's diverse collection of neighborhoods remains a key priority for city government. We have made great progress in this area, working in close partnership with our state and federal leaders, local civic organizations, and thousands of dedicated, innovative city residents.

The multi-faceted program my administration designed to address problem properties in New Bedford's neighborhoods continues to have a positive, long-term effect on this community. For the third consecutive year, the "Building For A Better New Bedford Program" has held delinquent property owners accountable, created safer, healthier living environments through strict code enforcement, and promoted lasting reinvestment by new, responsible homeowners. In 2008, seven structurally unsafe buildings were demolished, removing unsightly blight and dramatically enhancing the immediate neighborhood.

In addition, New Bedford's volunteers have had a central role in the ongoing revitalization of our city. Volunteers cleaned more than 11 tons of trash with the Operation Clean Sweep campaign, planted nearly three dozen new trees with the Tree City Committee and for the many children and teenagers involved in service activities throughout the city, began to understand the value of serving others at a young age.

In the year ahead, city government will continue to prioritize infrastructure projects and repair streets, sidewalks, streetlights, water and sewer lines, and many other service projects. The renovation of the Casa da Saudade Library is an example of the manner in which we will continue to utilize our skilled city crews to maintain the dozens of public facilities where residents connect with essential services.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & INITIATIVES:

City Services

- 4,142 potholes filled.
- 227 sidewalk locations repaired.
- 23,207 linear feet of sidewalks installed.
- 500 street cuts repaired.
- 932 crosswalks painted.

- 9,249 miles of roads swept.
- 254,108 linear feet of cracks sealed.
- 60 fire hydrants repaired or replaced
- 400 linear feet of harpoon fencing installed.
- 250 feet of guardrail installed.
- 84 meter poles installed.
- 1,644 streetlight repairs.

Improvements to Infrastructure

- The North End water pressure improvement project neared completion, with the final stage scheduled for completion in early 2009.
- The City of New Bedford replaced 6.4 miles of water main under the West End Water Rehabilitation Contract.
- A total of 20 New Bedford streets were improved or reconstructed.
- With funding from Mass Highway, traffic signals were installed at the intersection of King's Highway and Mt. Pleasant Street, and at the intersection of Rockdale Avenue and Bolton Street.

Improvements to Parks and Recreational Opportunities

- The City built a new playground and refurbished the basketball court at Ashley Park.
- The City installed a handicapped accessible restroom at Clegg Field.
- The City built a new fence and retaining walls at the Maxfield Street City Garden.

Building Renovations

- Casa da Saudade: Total renovation of the Library and Community Center
- Transfer Station: Built a new building for the recycling area to house the residential oil recycling tank.
- Buttonwood Senior Center: painted and refurbished facility.

- Buttonwood Park Zoo: Restored barns, installed new cabinets and countertops in the veterinary and aquatics building for accreditation.
- Police Headquarters: Remodeled office space for records room and traffic.
- Police Station #2: Removal of (6) skylights and Installed a new roof with a (40) year guarantee.
- City Yard: Built a truck wash bay for de-icing and washing off sand after storms.
- Fire Prevention: Renovation at 1204 Purchase Street creating 1,950sq. feet of office space.
- State Pier: Painted facility to approve aesthetic appearance.
- Custom House Square: Removed and replaced wood on the trellis.
- Lot 13: Built a youth football and baseball field and installed new fencing.

Housing

- The City coordinated 5 homebuyer counseling sessions to provide information to potential first time homebuyers, attended by a total of 231 community residents.
- The City sponsored 3 foreclosure prevention workshops attended by approximately 100 people.
- The City hosted a regional homebuyer fair at Normandin Middle School called “Opportunity Knocks” that was attended by 150 people.
- The City demolished 7 abandoned and deteriorated structures:
 - 6 Bonneau Court
 - 64 Hazard Street
 - 1120-1122 Acushnet Avenue
 - 124 Nye Street
 - 1885 Purchase Street
 - 1475 Morton Avenue
 - 64 Foster Street
- The City developed an in-house software program to create a Foreclosed/Abandoned Property management System.
- Targeted Code & Nuisance Enforcement Plan: the City instituted a targeted neighborhood improvement initiative. In order to concentrate resources to have the greatest impact, the City will begin implementation of the initiative in targeted

“blight sights”. The initiative will employ a multi-pronged and multi-departmental approach with an intensive focus on issuing tickets for externally visible code and nuisance violations.

- **Attorney General’s Receivership Program:** The Office of Housing and Community Development is working with the Attorney General to implement the Attorney General’s Abandoned Housing Initiative to address blight created by abandoned homes in otherwise viable neighborhoods. The program centered upon aggressive code enforcement, primarily by the Attorney General’s and municipal code officials’ ability to seek a receiver under the State Sanitary Code, to take control of the property, and to do whatever is necessary to make an abandoned house a viable home for new residents.
- **Vacant Building Registry Program:** The City launched a vacant building registry program to address the hundreds of vacant and blighted properties in New Bedford. Owners of vacant buildings will have to register the properties with the Department of Inspectional Services and pay a registration and inspection fee. Owners will also have to submit a plan of action for each property to identify whether the property will be rehabilitated, demolished or sold.
- **Vacant Lot Restoration Program:** In an effort to reduce blight and add much-needed pockets of green in our most densely populated neighborhoods, the City, through the Office of Housing and Community Development, has launched the Vacant Lot Restoration Program and Green NB. The City has allocated a total of \$140,000 toward the reclamation and beautification of vacant tax-title lots throughout the city. We will create mini parks, community gardens, and a well-designed daytime parking facility for one of our bustling commercial areas.

Neighborhood Improvements

- Through a partnership between the City of New Bedford and the Tree City Committee, 85 new trees were planted. The City also began a tree inventory.
- Installed 200 new public litter baskets in high-traffic locations. A Packer truck was purchased and is now in service to assist with emptying the baskets.
- Operation Clean Sweep enjoyed a highly successful third season, canvassed every city neighborhood, cleaned nearly 11 tons of trash and logged more than 1255 volunteer hours. Since the initiative began in 2006, 1,600 volunteers have spent 6,000 hours removing 39 tons of trash from city streets.
- In 2008, recycling in the City increased by 44% as compared to 2006 before the start of the Recycle More! New Bedford campaign. In the two year campaign, a recycling intern identified and then delivered blue bins to residents who were not recycling. Over 10,000 recycling bins were distributed.

- Through a partnership with the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, the City received a grant to install solar lighting at the Lewis Temple statue located in front of the New Bedford Public Library.
- For the second year, the entire student body of Tabor Academy participated in a Day of Service, providing several thousand volunteer hours to City projects such as park beautification and beach cleanup.
- Participants in the Community Service Program, under the state Office of the Commissioner of Probation, worked to pick up litter, paint city facilities, and maintain open spaces.

Environmental Remediation

- The City received a \$400,000 Brownfields Assessment Grant in April 2008.
- Secured extension of EPA Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Grant to March 31, 2009; worked with Dickinson Development (Fairhaven Mills site) and Caritas Communities (280 North Street) to use this fund for cleanup at the respective sites.
- 740 Belleville Avenue (Former Aerovox site): Continued negotiations with EPA, DEP and potentially responsible party for cleanup of the former Aerovox site on Belleville Rd.
- Elco Dress Site: Completed asbestos abatement, tank removal, demolition, cleanup and restoration of the Elco Dress building.
- Prepared and submitted a Class A-2 Response Action Outcome Statement to MassDEP to address contamination associated with former underground storage tank located at Elco Dress site. This completes City requirements under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan.
- 241 Duchaine Blvd. (former PolyPly/ Polymerine site): Completed a Phase I Initial Site Investigation, Tier Classification and Phase II Scope of Work and Phase II Assessment field work for the property (funded through grant from MassDevelopment. Received an additional \$22,300 from MassDevelopment for Phase II assessment.
- 280 North Street: Contracted with Licensed Site Professional and prepared Quality Assurance Project Plan for environmental assessment work to facilitate redevelopment into affordable housing for veterans. Completed a Supplemental Phase III Environmental Site Assessment.
- 246 River Road (former Reliable Truss site): Substantially completed Supplemental Phase II work at 246 River Road (formerly Reliable Truss) site

Conservation

- Working with The Harbor Development Commission, obtained approval from federal and state agencies to conduct a pilot salt marsh creation/restoration project on Palmers Island.
- Worked collaboratively with the New Bedford Regional Airport on development of mitigation alternatives for the safety expansion at the New Bedford Regional Airport.
- Joined the City of New Bedford Stormwater Review Committee to work with DPI, Solicitors Office and the Building Department towards the development of a local stormwater bylaw.
- Continued to conduct ongoing maintenance and monitoring at the Sullivan's Ledge Wetland Restoration, including the use of biological control to eliminate invasive vegetation.
- Developed a city wide map identifying potential mosquito and tick breeding locations so that the Board of Health could post warning signs for the public.
- Reviewed and prepared comments on behalf of the City pertaining to the release of the draft FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps for Bristol County.
- Conservation Commission continued to work w/MADEP, City departments (zoo and DPI), and the Town of Dartmouth on the Buttonwood Brook watershed bacterial pollution and believes it permanently eliminated one intermittent source of bacteria originating in Dartmouth. The DEP has carried out site specific sampling and developed a draft report.
- Working with the Friends of Buttonwood to develop and implement a riparian wetland restoration project within Buttonwood Park.
- Located a site for a Pilot Community Vegetable Garden in the City of New Bedford, which contains clean uncontaminated soil suitable for growing food and held a soil sampling workshop for residents.
- Using funding from the Conservation Commission, hired a part-time conservation biologist to assist in the regulatory & permitting workload.
- Issued 29 Determinations of Applicability, 15 Orders of Conditions, 38 Requests to Extend an Order of Conditions, 6 Amended Orders of Conditions, 6 Certificates of Compliance, 6 Emergency Certifications, 15 Enforcement Orders, 1 Notice of Violation, 1 Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation

Parker Street Waste Site

- Hired an environmental planner in February 2008 specifically dedicated to the Parker Street project.
- Completed July /August Indoor air & vent, October groundwater, & November cap monitoring at Keith Middle School and repaired slope embankment failure near southwest property corner.
- Completed nine rounds of wetland sediment sampling.
- At New Bedford High School, completed exterior soil investigation to close data gaps and indoor PCB source sampling with additional testing of 162 source samples.
- Worked with Law Dept. to complete acquisition of five residential properties on Ruggles and Greenwood impacted by contamination; three families were relocated.
- At Walsh Field, collected and analyzed soil samples to close data gaps and discovered an Imminent Hazard Condition; Excavate, removed and replaced 300 cubic yards of soil at varsity baseball diamond and 300 cubic yards of soil at junior varsity baseball diamond to eliminate the Imminent Hazard Condition; secured cost effective disposal of soil at Crapo Hill landfill.
- Performed additional soil sampling at former Keith Jr. High School to close an open DEP release case for underground storage tank removal; prepared information for the construction of the new Andrea McCoy Field at the site.

Keith Middle School Photovoltaic Project

- Prepared and advertised Request for Responses for contractor to install photovoltaic cells on Keith Middle School; reviewed bids, and secured \$10,445 additional funding from Massachusetts Technology Collaborative for the project.

Environmental Education

- Completed sub-award agreements and commenced working with New Bedford Oceanarium and Southeast Environmental Education Alliance (SEEAL) on environmental education programs funded through and EPA grant.

Community Health

- The Health Department successfully launched an innovative early intervention pilot lead paint prevention project in collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Lead Paint Prevention Program, Greater New Bedford Community Health Center, and the UMD Childhood Lead Prevention Program to reduce the risk for childhood lead paint poisoning in our community.

- The Massachusetts Department of Public Health opened a regional office in New Bedford to better serve the residents of southeastern Massachusetts.
- The Health Department helped plan two Bristol County Emergency Preparedness Table Top Exercises in the spring of 2008 in response to a mock Infectious Disease Outbreak in New Bedford and a Bristol County Hurricane Drill.
- The Health Department also collaborated with the NBPS, Public Safety Departments, and Medical Reserve Corps volunteers to facilitate an Emergency Dispensing Site / Flu Vaccine Clinic Exercise at Normandin Middle School in November 2008.
- The Health Department serves as a student internship site for the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, College of Nursing, Boston University School of Public Health, Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School's Legal and Protective Services Program, as well as, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Summer Internship Institute. Students work on projects resulting in educational materials development, community outreach and education, Tobacco Control and Alcohol Prevention, Food Safety, and on-going efforts to bolster Emergency Preparedness by expanding the ranks of the Greater New Bedford Medical Reserve Corps in area communities and on-campus.
- Health Department obtained 75 Mosquito Control / Tick Health Warning signs from the Bristol County Boards of Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition and collaborated with the Conservation Commission and the Department of Public Infrastructure to post signs in high risk areas of New Bedford to raise community awareness about health risks and benefits of personal protection.
- The Health Department developed a Special Populations Survey in collaboration with a host of community agencies and city departments represented on the Special Populations Task Force to identify and address the needs of community residents requiring additional assistance in the event of a Flu Pandemic and/or All Hazard Emergencies, which will be implemented in 2009.

Community Services

- Working with Attorney General Martha Coakley, implemented a grant-funded regional consumer advocacy and protection program.
- Supported by \$180,000 in state funding, over 894 students participated in 13 Invest-in-Kids programs.
- The City hosted the Annual Easter Egg Hunt, serving 160 youth, and the Youth Track & Field meet, with 21 participants.
- The City's 5 senior centers served 2,603 residents.

- The Clear Paths Snow Removal Program assisted 90 elderly and disabled homeowners.
- The 5th Annual Portuguese Elder Conference was attended by 160 residents.
- Spring Fling, a program of the Council on Aging, was attended by 300.
- The Council on Aging mailed over 785 brochures to retirees aged 65+ informing them of available programs and services.
- The food drive held in conjunction with PACE aided 23 families.
- The New Bedford Healthcare Center provided a Healthy Eating program for 70 participants at the Buttonwood senior center.
- The Sunset Social program served 80 seniors for 13 weeks at the Grace Episcopal Church.
- The Massachusetts Department of Education awarded the City \$201,042 for its Summer Food Service program that operated across 58 sites, serving 76,169 meals to City youth.
- The City's Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Officer served 1,094 constituents.
- The Neighborhood Outreach Unit provided constituent services in 5 languages to over 6,840 constituents.
- The CS² program obtained \$210,800 in grants and served approximately 2,000 students and parents, partnering with 67 businesses, 34 community organizations, and 3 institutions of higher education.
- Installed Wii gaming systems at each of the senior centers.

Veterans

- The City serves over 400 veterans, widows, spouses, and children, setting another record for the largest number of clients in the City's history. The City has the second largest number of clients in the state, following Boston.
- The City continues to assist veterans in filing for the federal services for which they may be eligible, including Veterans Administration health care, compensation, pension, educational assistance, widow's compensation (DIC) and widow's pension, and burial benefits.

- The Veteran's van service made 874 trips to bring clients to and from medical appointments.
- The Department of Veterans' Services worked with the Department of Public Infrastructure and the Department of Public Facilities to install two additional street signs for two World War II veterans who were killed in action from the City of New Bedford. This brings the total number of street signs marking the sacrifices of New Bedford veterans to 33: 27 Vietnam, 4 WWII, 2 Iraq, and 1 Korean War.
- On Thanksgiving, Veterans Services coordinated 50 volunteers to deliver 280 meals to elderly and disabled clients, funded by private donations.

Library

- Overall circulation increased by 7.85%.
- Circulation at the 4 branches and the Bookmobile increased by 5.94%.
- Using federal grant funds, the City began a major renovation of the Casa da Saudade branch library, which when completed will serve as a library and as the City's interim Portuguese Cultural Center while more funding is raised to support that project.
- The Library received a grant of \$3,000 from the Board of Library Commissioners for Equal Access for the Lawler branch; programming and book purchases have commenced.
- The Library received a two-year grant of \$12,000 from the Board of Library Commissioners for Conversation Circles at the Howland-Green and Casa da Saudade.
- The City upgraded handicapped accessibility at the branch library locations.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Managing our City in the Most Effective and Economical Way

2008 Overview:

Three years ago, New Bedford's fiscal health was in poor condition, due in large part to a sizable FY '06 deficit as well as inappropriate borrowing and spending practices. My administration has been working to reverse these troubling trends and we have made great progress in many significant areas. We continue to carefully confront the challenges posed by the national recession, the effects of which are felt in cities and towns across the country.

Several practices have been employed to better manage city finances including:

- To encourage cost-saving practices and to seek innovative ways to reduce the burden upon City taxpayers.
- To not enter into financial obligations without necessary and binding commitments to support them.
- To prioritize a comprehensive city building maintenance program.
- To ensure that all expenditures met statutory requirements and all Department of Revenue oversight requirements.

We believe that the sustained implementation of these practices will continue to strengthen New Bedford's financial stability and integrity, spurring further investment, economic development and yielding a positive outlook regarding the city's long-term fiscal well-being.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & INITIATIVES:

- The City has retained its A3 bond rating with Moody's Investors Service. Obligations rated A3 are judged to be of high quality with low credit risk. Additionally, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Municipal Finance Oversight Board approved the CONB's request to issue \$72,574,489 in qualified bonds. This approval makes City debt obligations more attractive to potential investors.
- Preliminary implementation of a \$48 million elementary school building plan commenced.
- Certified \$3,920,052 million in free cash, bringing the total amount of certified free cash to \$11,438,940.
- Established a balanced budget of \$287,697,482 for FY '09.

- Through the City's switch to Harvard Pilgrim Health Insurance, costs were contained during the 2008 calendar year.
- The Tax Title Division has collected \$1,460,062.94 in tax title; \$279,949.15 in tax title interest and fees; completed 54 final judgments (with an assessed value of \$2,875,145.00) and sold 17 abutter's lots for \$115, 191. Five tax possessions were sold at public auction for a total of \$235,000.
- The city successfully secured over \$24 million in grant funding.
- The City's Resource Development Office worked on 16 grant applications for \$3,453,478 million in funding, and brought in over \$1,351,940 million in grant funding.
- The Traffic Commission raised \$1,242,444 in revenue from the City's parking garages, meters, through the enforcement of parking ordinances.
- The City installed a remote check depositing system in the Treasurer's Office for the immediate deposit of all bills paid by check.
- The EMS department began using the AmbuPro System, allowing for expedited submission of billable information for City ambulatory services.
- The City reviewed all policies and operations to ensure maximized cost savings and efficiency.
- By auditing City communications systems, the City cut costs by eliminating under-utilized phone lines.
- The City received \$500,000 for the sale of Fairhaven Mills.
- The City Property Committee sold 1558 Purchase Street for \$80,000.
- The City Property Committee sold the former Ingraham School building for \$225,000.

CRIME & PUBLIC SAFETY

Making our City Safe Again

2008 Overview:

At the core of every prosperous community is a comprehensive public safety program and in New Bedford, we have made this goal our primary focus. Much progress has been made and we remain committed to dedicating the energy and resources needed to maintain this greater sense of safety and security throughout the community.

When I took office, I outlined the following objectives for my administration:

- Decentralize policing by opening up police sub-stations.
- Develop a coordinated/cooperative effort among Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies.
- Provide our police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians with the best available tools and equipment.
- Establish strong working relationships in our neighborhoods.

My administration has led a full-scale effort to decrease crime, improve neighborhood safety and restore New Bedford's reputation as a safe community. The decentralization of our police force and renewed commitment to the community policing model has built strong alliances between the department and city residents, neighborhood associations and community organizations. In addition, the New Bedford Police Department has strengthened its partnerships with other law enforcement agencies to enable a coordinated, multi-tiered response to suppress gang activity, gun crimes, and other serious criminal violations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & INITIATIVES:

Police Department

Increased Police Activity

- The Police Department received 91,942 calls for service in 2008 (or 251.2 calls per day), of which 18,643 yielded a total of 22,572 reports, resulting in 11,042 arrests and complaint applications.
- There were 3 homicides in 2008, a 67% reduction from 2005.
- The Street Gang Unit made 303 arrests.
- The Narcotics Unit made 806 arrests in 2008, an increase of 3% over 2007 and a 26% increase over 2006.

- The Narcotics Unit executed 125 search warrants, a 13% increase over 2007 and a 6% increase over 2006.
- The Narcotics unit seized \$197,782 in 2008.
- In 2008, police seized 36 guns, including shotguns, semi-automatic pistols, and handguns.
- The Police Department received 21 grants totaling \$3,105,957.

Promotions to Leadership Positions

- 6 men and women graduated the police academy and were sworn in as New Bedford police officers on June 26, 2008.
- Two promotions were made to fill leadership positions, including the positions of one Lieutenant and one Sergeant.

Creating Law Enforcement Alliances

- Increased collaborative anti-gang activities on a regional basis including an expanded partnership with Fairhaven and Dartmouth.
- Broadened regional monthly gang intelligence-sharing meetings.
- Continued ongoing, effective partnerships with the FBI Gang Task Force, the DEA, ATF, and USAO
- Expanded close working relationship with District Attorney Sam Sutter's office for focused prosecution of violent and gun offenses. Embedded prosecutor in Violent Crime Investigations for real time prosecutorial guidance.
- In collaboration with the District Attorney's Office, created an Arson Task Force to intensively investigate and prosecute several suspected arsons involving empty houses.
- Partnering with Attorney General Martha Coakley, advocated for expanded summer job opportunities for city youth as a tool to keep young people engaged in constructive activities.

Community Alliances

- Continued to facilitate the work of the HOPE Collaborative, which consists of community and neighborhoods groups working to combat gang and other violence.

- Fostered collaborative relationships with existing neighborhood associations and supported the development of new neighborhood associations.
- Continued to establish strong relationships within the South End Weed and Seed site.
- Applied for the designation of a second Weed and Seed Neighborhood, encompassing parts of the North End and the West End.

New Laws

- To better ensure the safety of all children, the City passed a Child Safety Zone ordinance, keeping Level II & III sex offenders from entering several types of public buildings where children are likely to be.

Enhanced Technology

- Began the process of installing a new emergency dispatch and records management system, with the goal of enhancing efficiency.
- The Police Department acquired two Vectrix scooters and 23 “green” E85 fuel-flex vehicles, capable of running on regular gas or fuel with higher ethanol concentrations.

Fire Department

Fire Department Activity

- The New Bedford Fire Department responded to 10,656 calls in 2008, or 29 calls per day. Approximately 5% of these calls were actual fires.

Enhanced Technology & New Equipment

- The Fire Department received a \$499,255 Assistance to Firefighters Grant to replace the Department’s self-contained breathing apparatus.
- The Fire Department received a \$28,378 state grant for firefighter safety equipment.
- The Fire Department purchases a Pierce Arrow XT pumper to replace engine Company #8 and a Pierce ladder truck to replace Ladder Company #1.

Community Involvement

- The Fire Department received a SAFE (Student Awareness of Fire Education) grant of \$10,400 to continue its educational program in city schools.

EMS

EMS Activity

- Emergency Medical Services responded to 12,346 calls for emergency assistance in 2008, or 34 per day.

Building Partnerships

- The EMS department shared data with Tufts New England Medical Center for their Stroke/ "Brain Attack" protocol project.
- The EMS department continued the City's participation with the Boston EMS Special Project Waiver for C-PAP, with the goal of developing a specialized statewide treatment protocol for congestive heart failure/difficulty breathing.

Improvements in Technology

- The EMS department computerized the Patient Data Management system, allowing for real time data collection and sharing between ambulances and EMS headquarters.
- The EMS department upgraded all cardiac monitors to the 3rd Generation series to allow for an interface with the data management system. In the future, this will allow us to transition to paperless health care documentation.

Emergency Management

- Completed 2008 revision and update of the city's Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
- Received Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approval of the city's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan making the city eligible for a series of pre-disaster mitigation grants.
- Working with FEMA officials, completed site selection and detailed survey of a designated city facility that could serve as a federal/state Disaster Recovery Center following a presidential emergency/disaster declaration.

- Department officials took part in three disaster training tabletop exercises and drills, as well as being part of the planning team and participating in the city's functional-level exercise. All exercises were multidiscipline/multi-jurisdictional collaborative efforts
- Completed additional technology upgrades in the city's Mobile Command Center using a state homeland security program grant.
- The Director serves as the Emergency Management representative on the Southeast Regional Homeland Security Advisory Council.

STATS for 2008 NBPD

| | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Murder | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Rape | 6 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 11 | 3 | 3 | 62 |
| Robbery | 17 | 26 | 18 | 17 | 27 | 32 | 29 | 23 | 23 | 15 | 20 | 29 | 276 |
| Assault | 53 | 46 | 56 | 53 | 59 | 55 | 67 | 72 | 66 | 51 | 50 | 40 | 668 |
| Burglary | 78 | 69 | 83 | 75 | 95 | 82 | 95 | 128 | 119 | 81 | 73 | 73 | 1051 |
| Larceny | 201 | 153 | 137 | 160 | 183 | 185 | 172 | 157 | 215 | 175 | 154 | 150 | 2042 |
| Auto | 20 | 25 | 33 | 23 | 31 | 32 | 30 | 27 | 20 | 25 | 22 | 26 | 314 |
| Arson | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 38 |
| Total | 380 | 329 | 333 | 334 | 411 | 394 | 403 | 416 | 449 | 359 | 323 | 323 | 4454 |

Preliminary data; subject to audit.

**STATS for New Bedford Police Department
2004-2008**

| | 2008 | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Murder | 3 | 2 | 7 | 9 | 7 |
| Rape | 62 | 43 | 61 | 62 | 54 |
| Robbery | 276 | 259 | 262 | 227 | 221 |
| Assault | 668 | 630 | 647 | 598 | 598 |
| Burglary | 1051 | 905 | 851 | 892 | 888 |
| Larceny | 2042 | 1920 | 1951 | 2090 | 2148 |
| Auto | 314 | 421 | 532 | 463 | 480 |
| Arson | 38 | 34 | 38 | 20 | 28 |
| | | | | | |
| Total | 4454 | 4214 | 4349 | 4361 | 4424 |

Preliminary data; subject to audit.

EDUCATION & YOUTH

Preparing our Children for the Challenges of the Future

2008 Overview:

New Bedford is committed to developing a community of learners who are academically proficient, demonstrate strong character, and exhibit self-confidence. We are excited and anticipate transformation in the education department that allows all of our children to develop and reach their highest potential and to be competitive not only in the 21st century but also in the expanse of the global economy.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Portia S. Bonner and the New Bedford School Committee, the goals of the school department are:

- Set high academic standards for all students and believe they can achieve them.
- Create a positive school culture that builds character and self-confidence.
- Engage parents and community in the learning process.
- Establish a professional staff that demonstrates quality, diversity, and a strong background in content knowledge and pedagogy.

Through the attainment of such goals, we expect to see an increase in the number of students reading at or above grade level, an increased number of students taking higher-level math and science courses, a higher graduation rate, and more students matriculating to post-secondary learning.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & INITIATIVES:

Educating the Children and Youth of New Bedford

- The New Bedford School Department was the recipient of \$107,414,208 in Chapter 70 aid.
- New Bedford Public Schools had 12,748 enrolled students:
 - 2,832 students attended 4 high schools or high-school level programs: New Bedford High School, West Side Junior-Senior High School, Alternative Regional Education, and the Global Learning Charter High School.
 - 2,969 students attend 6 middle schools or middle school programs: Global Learning Charter; Keith, Normandin, and Roosevelt Middle Schools; West Side Junior-Senior High School; and Alternative Regional Education.
 - 6,947 students attended 22 elementary schools: Ashley, Brooks, Campbell, Carney, Congdon, DeValles, Dunbar, Gomes, Hannigan, Hayden-MacFadden,

Kempton, Lincoln, Pacheco, Ottiwell, Parker, Phillips Avenue, Pulaski, Rodman, Swift, Taylor, Winslow, and Charter.

- 2,520 students were provided with Special Education Services.
- The School Department consisted of 2,170 of teachers, administrators, and support staff.
- During the 2007-2008 school year, 103 new teachers, 6 new administrators, and 4 new school nurses were hired to serve our students.
- The Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School had 2,022 students enrolled for the 2007-2008 school year.

Confronting Financial Challenges

- The New Bedford Public Schools continued to offer full-day kindergarten despite a restrictive budget.
- Continued to maintain 22 elementary school buildings, 3 middle school buildings, 1 high school building, and 3 alternative program sites.
- Maintained a class size at the elementary level of under 30 students.

Focusing on Children

- Mayor Lang continued to visit elementary schools, middle schools, and the high school to encourage both literacy and civic responsibility. Met with thousands of New Bedford students and hundreds of teachers and administrators during these visits.
- With private funding, the City hosted the third annual Mayor's Summer Youth Program under which 156 youth supervised by New Directions staff participated in a 6-week program that provided a combination of work experience, education, and community activities.

Confronting Educational Challenges

- The West Side Junior-Senior Alternative School serviced 129 regular and special needs students. At the beginning of the 2008/2009 school year, West Side students were reassigned to other city schools and programs to enhance their educational experience.
- Work on dropout prevention includes addressing attendance as early as the kindergarten age.

- The high school's Drop-out Prevention Office continues to work with at risk students on a one-to-one basis. A formal process is in place at the high school to follow at-risk students, providing early intervention and lowering the drop-out rate. The office also follows up with students who leave school early through an exit interview process in an effort to recover students or ensure that they are enrolled in an educational alternative.
- The Twilight program at New Bedford High School continued to serve about 50 students, providing them with an alternate route to a diploma. Students attend classes from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and are enrolled in a supervised community-service work experience for a minimum of 15 hours per week. Twilight students are also given an opportunity to participate in dual-enrollment courses at Bristol Community College.
- For the second consecutive year, New Bedford High School hosted a mid-year graduation ceremony. This winter, 23 students from the Twilight program and day school graduated, with many enrolling in post secondary education classes.
- The Parenting Teens Program is run through a coalition of agencies that advocate on behalf of pregnant and parenting teens in the Greater New Bedford area. Last year, 140 students were enrolled.

Protecting Children's Health

- Made oral health care services available to every second grade student through the dental sealant program at the Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School. Of the 126 students screened, 48 received sealants through the program and 78 were referred to local dentists for additional care.
- In addition to the dental sealant program, a comprehensive oral health care program was run at Roosevelt, Normandin, West Side and New Bedford High School. Students received dental exams, cleanings, X-rays, and sealants on a Mobile Access to Care (MAC) van. Local dentists volunteered their time and resources to care for those students who required more extensive dental work.
- The Health Department collaborated closely with New Bedford Public Schools, local day care providers, and the public in providing community education on the prevention of communicable diseases such as MRSA through proper personal hygiene and environmental sanitation.
- With the support and guidance of the MDPH Childhood Lead Prevention Program and in collaboration with the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center, a pilot program has been introduced to diagnose and treat lead poisoning in children.

- Through the Automatic External Defibrillator Program (AED), there is now a defibrillator in each school building and many New Bedford School staff have earned an American Heart Association certificate in CPR/AED use.
- A successful Flu Clinic organized by the Nursing Department of the NBPS was held in November, and more than 100 school department employees received their vaccine.
- School nurses conducted yearly screenings on vision, hearing, posture, growth and dentition to identify students in further need of care. Nurses also assisted families with making follow up appointments.
- Nurses collaborated with school staff and community health agencies in hosting family health and wellness fairs at neighborhood schools to promote disease prevention in students and families.

Educational Grants and Awards - Highlights

- The New Bedford Public Schools received grant and project funds totaling \$18,589,963.
- Our school district is the lead in a Federal Teaching American History Grants Program that connects educators throughout southeastern Massachusetts with history faculty from UMass Dartmouth and Bristol Community College and beyond. Plans are already in place to continue this partnership in a newer, long term project: *Sustaining History*.
- New Bedford's out-of-school-time 21st Century Community Learning Centers program has been rewarded with a funding expansion, with total support reaching almost 1 million dollars, facilitating an expansion to 9 after-school sites in total.
- Under the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's Youth Violence Prevention Program students and staff at Parenting Teens, the Whaling City Program and Roosevelt middle school have benefitted from professional development and innovative programming aimed at promoting safe and supportive learning environments.
- The School Department is one of three Massachusetts recipients of Department of Education Emergency management funding, allowing the district to work more closely with city and regional emergency planners for an *All Hazards* approach to student safety.

Creating Educational Partnerships

- Worked closely with Chancellor Jean MacCormack of UMass Dartmouth, Dr. Dana Mohler-Faria of Bridgewater State College, and Dr. John Sbrega of Bristol Community College to promote expanded educational opportunities for New Bedford youth and residents.
- To encourage the development of the next generation of scientists and engineers, the New Bedford Public Schools and the Department of the Navy, Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC), Division Newport signed an educational compact enabling students to learn science, mathematics, engineering, and computer science by participating in undersea technology research projects conducted by the Naval Undersea Warfare Center.
- The New Bedford Public Schools continued its work with Bridgewater State and CUSP@ UMASS Dartmouth to attract more math and science teachers, as well as to recruit teachers who reflect the diversity of New Bedford.
- The SMILES mentoring program saw 350 mentors volunteering in 19 programs in 13 New Bedford schools.
- The New Bedford Public Schools continue to work with the Women's Center to provide advocacy and violence prevention counseling to participants in the Parenting Teen Program.
- Collaborated with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's College of Nursing, in securing a commitment to raise awareness and build Medical Reserve Corps capacity through volunteer student and faculty recruitment.
- Officially launched the Michael E. Longo Community Service Pilot Program to a group of about 800 ninth-graders. The program, proposed last year by Mayor Scott W. Lang and approved as a pilot project by the School Committee last fall, was developed through a collaboration among the high school's Office of the Dean of Students, CS² — Communities and Schools for Success, and United Way. This project is supported, in part, by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Massachusetts Service Alliance, Learn and Serve America, and CS².
- Our Sisters' School, an independent tuition-free school for middle school girls, welcomed its first class of students for the 2008/2009 school year. The opening of Our Sisters School complements well the work of Nativity Prep, an independent tuition-free school for middle school boys that opened in New Bedford in 2000.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Creating Jobs and Opportunities

2008 Overview:

New Bedford continues to attract many private investors and economic development projects with its capable workforce, unmatched location, strong sense of community, valuable infrastructure and talented economic development team. The city has seen expansion in several major business sectors including alternative energy, medical device manufacturing, biotech industry, marine science and technology and creative enterprises.

I set the following economic development objectives for my administration:

- Aggressively market our city.
- Develop a strategic tourism master plan to attract more tourists to our city.
- Promote and develop the creative economy.
- Support local business expansion and new business opportunities.
- Establish a Grants Office to pursue available Federal/State assistance.
- Assist private businesses in locating to and expanding in New Bedford.
- Create a Master Plan for development.
- Promote and support further waterfront development.
- Support improvement of the City's valuable infrastructure.
- Support improvement of the City's commercial areas.
- Support improvement of the City's transportation systems.
- Establish an interactive economic development team to aggressively support and advance economic development projects.

We continue to aggressively pursue economic development projects that will enhance our city, lead to job creation, and spur further investment. Along with our business recruitment efforts and support for existing business expansion, New Bedford currently has more major planning projects in progress than at any other time in the city's history.

With new safety enhancements in place, significant runway repairs completed, and the restoration of the Bridgewater State College flight training school, the New Bedford Regional Airport continues to be a valuable economic development asset.

Lastly, New Bedford has retained its status as the number one fishing port in the country and infrastructure improvements and safety enhancements have occurred in support of the industry's continued prosperity.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & INITIATIVES:

Development and Economic Opportunity

Real Estate Redevelopment

- Eight catalytic projects, such as the new waterfront hotel (the Marriott Fairfield Inn and Suites), Fairhaven Mills, Wamsutta Mills, Cliftex, Victoria Riverside and the Cummings Building downtown are in various stages of development.
- These projects have an aggregate purchase value of \$18.25 million and a total projected development cost of \$140 million and create an estimated 680 construction jobs, and are projected to create 785 full-time jobs.

Existing & Small Business Expansion

- More than 50 small businesses looking to relocate or expand have been assisted, impacting over 300 employees.
- The City has assisted 14 new businesses that have relocated or expanded into the downtown. These new names to downtown include:
 - The Bay & Cottage Clothing Company
 - The White Bouquet
 - Union City Grille
 - The Black Whale
 - Brick
 - Hybernia
 - Pour Farm Tavern
 - Vetu
 - No Problemo
 - Artificial Marketplace
 - Juice Box
 - Cead Mile Failte
 - Thompson & Farland Engineering
 - The Waterfront Grill
- In 2008, the City assisted Darn It! Inc with site selection, gap financing, and coordinated permitting for their expansion into mill space in the Upper Harbor, representing a \$2.65 million investment, the creation of 10 new jobs and retention of 70 jobs.

Business Recruitment

- The City has successfully made inroads in new clusters for job creation:
 - Alternative Energy
 - Medical Device Manufacturing

- Biotech Manufacturing
 - Marine Science & Technology
 - Creative Enterprises
- Notable companies within these sectors include; Symmetry Medical, Zegen, Parallel Products, Natural Currents, CCI Energy, Waste Water Solutions, Fathom Research, and Konarka Technologies—a Lowell, Massachusetts based photovoltaic cell manufacturer that is a world leader in the field of solar energy innovation.
 - Konarka Technologies has made an \$8 million investment at the former MCT site in the New Bedford Business Park and will create 100 new jobs with salaries of \$50,000-\$100,000 within 10 years and is likely to create an additional 300-1000 new jobs as they grow and expand. To bring Konarka Technologies to New Bedford, the City was proactive with recruitment, negotiation, and site selection.
 - Recruitment efforts for 2008 included giving nearly 20 tours to qualified leads and using the Developer's Conference hosted in New Bedford and tradeshow as tools to proactively recruit new business and job creation opportunities to New Bedford.
 - The New Bedford Economic Development Council created New Bedford.IS, a targeted marketing plan that will be implemented in the next several months to communicate with specific contacts within these sectors.
 - The New Bedford Bay Sox, one of twelve teams affiliated with the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) signed a three-season lease with the city to make the City of New Bedford its new home. The league is one of the premiere collegiate baseball leagues in the country and players are heavily scouted by Major League Baseball.

Lending Activities

- For 2008, through the New Bedford Economic Development Council Lending Program, the city funded 11 new loans totaling \$925,000. This direct lending has leveraged over \$4 million of new investment.
- These loans have helped to create or retain 30 jobs and assisted 4 Micro-Enterprises. The NBEDC lending staff is currently working with over 25 small businesses in need of financing.

Job Retention

- More than 400 jobs were retained through the NBEDC Lending Program and the Tax Increment Financing Program in 2008.

- In addition to the Lending and TIF Programs, the NBEDC also worked directly with many small and mid-size businesses in 2008 in an effort to retain an additional 110 jobs for New Bedford residents.

Grants & Foundations

- The Garfield Foundation funded Phase 2 of the Upper Harbor Development Plan and also provided a matching grant for a comprehensive master plan.
- The City was awarded an Adams Grant for the development of the Creative Economy by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Partnership Activities

- Strong partnerships in economic development are instrumental to sustained success and in 2008 that network included:

City Partners

- City Council
- City Departments and agencies
- New Bedford Economic Development Council
- Greater New Bedford Industrial Foundations
- New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce
- Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board
- North End Business Association
- Downtown New Bedford, Inc.
- South End Business Association

State Partners

- Governor Patrick
- New Bedford Legislative Delegation
- MassDevelopment
- Massachusetts Office of Business Development
- Southeastern Economic Development Corp.
- Commonwealth Corp.
- Massachusetts Small Business Network
- Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District

Educational Partners

- University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
- Bristol Community College
- Bridgewater State College
- Southern New England School of Law

- Roger Williams University
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Harvard University

Economic Development Planning

- New Bedford is currently undergoing more concurrent planning than at any other time in the city's history. Planning projects that were completed in 2008 or are currently underway include:
 - Hicks-Logan-Sawyer (HLS) Master Plan and Growth District
 - Upper Harbor Development Plan
 - Governor's Growth District
 - Commuter Rail
 - Downtown Retail & Land Use Plan
 - Quest Center/Armory Development Plan
 - Acushnet Avenue Commercial Corridor
 - Goulart Square Revitalization
 - New Bedford-Fairhaven Harbor Plan update
 - Route 18 South Gateway Development
 - Historic Mills Inventory

Incentives, Sales, & Marketing

TIF Program

- 6 development/expansion projects represented a total investment of \$76.5 million
- 195 jobs to be created
- 369 jobs retained

Marketing & Communication

- The NBEDC maintained regular communication through its e-newsletter, website and frequent press releases to stakeholders, community members, and the media.
- Created and developed:
 - New Bedford.IS
 - Open for Business! A guide for Storefront Design
 - Targeted marketing pieces (i.e. downtown grocer)
- Conducted nearly 20 tours for qualified leads.
- Held trade shows for targeted growth sectors.

- In partnership with MassDevelopment, held “Showcasing New Bedford,” a developer’s conference drawing 125 potential developers to the City to discuss and view its potential.
- Hosted specialized tours for boating layovers to enhance New Bedford’s reputation amongst recreational boaters along the East Coast.

City Planning

- Current Master Plan effort funded for \$130,000 through foundation and state grants.
- Completed Historic Mill Inventory, the 1st of its kind in Massachusetts.
- Conducted a North End Corridor study and action plan.
- Evaluated and updated the Downtown Action Plan.
- Completed the Hicks-Logan-Sawyer (HLS) Master Plan.
- Completed a District Improvement Financing Plan for the HLS area.
- Implemented an Interim Planning Overlay District in the HLS area.
- Completed historic surveys of City Hall and all cemeteries.
- Created a Permitting Guide corresponding with the City’s acceptance of MGL Ch. 43D, Streamlined Permitting.
- Completed the 2008 Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- Completed a final District Development Action Plan for the redevelopment of the Upper Harbor.
- Received grant awards including:
 - Gateway Cities Plus: \$75,000 awarded by the state Department of Housing & Economic Development.
 - The Garfield Foundation: \$50,000 to fund the civic engagement element of the Master Plan.
 - More Jobs Grant: \$2,100,000 to redevelop infrastructure around Fairhaven Mills.
- Assisted in the analysis of plans for 23 development projects and 48 variance/special permit applications.

Fishing Industry & Harbor Development

- The Mayor's Ocean Fisheries Council continued to partner with industry, state delegates and federal delegates to address regulatory hurdles challenging the fishing industry.
- The City sponsored 2 fishermen training programs with over 40 participants, including a Harbor Development Commission (HDC) donation of a survival suit for every program.
- Working with the District Attorney's Office and the New Bedford Police Department, set a legal precedent for the removal of derelict vessels from HDC piers and wharves via a no trespass conviction.
- 18 derelict boats have been removed from the Port over the last 2 years.
- Major repairs of the lighting infrastructure on HDC Piers & Wharves commenced for the first time in decades.
- Installation of ring buoys around the entire port (on commercial fish piers), enhancing safety.
- Deployed a security guard to conduct night patrol of HDC docks and piers.
- The Port received a total of \$7,483,500 in grants in 2008 including navigational dredging; installation of dinghy docks, acquisition of a fireboat; removal of sunken vessels; and the acquisition of a pump-out boat.
- Federal port security grants were awarded for the procurement of port security surveillance equipment, TWIC card readers, and patrol gear (\$950,000); The HDC hosted a TWIC mobile station registering 80 people.
- Commercial Fishing Berth Expansion Project: Began Phase II (\$100,000 grant) conducting an infrastructure inspection of HDC piers and wharves to assess their structural integrity and push out the harbor line for the construction project.
- Installed fendering, docking cleats and ladders at South Terminal through a \$495,000 grant.
- A shore side power design grant of \$150,000 was awarded for commercial fishing piers and wharves.
- Storm Water management design grant of \$15,000 awarded for commercial fishing piers and wharves.

- In cooperation with Covanta and National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, the Fishing for Energy program was implemented in April 2008. The program encouraged fishermen to recycle derelict nets that were then brought to a recycling facility in Haverhill and burned for energy.
- The HDC negotiated a 5 year contract with American Cruise Lines with a minimum of 20 port of calls per year.

Tourism Statistics

- The Buttonwood Park Zoo had another record-setting year with 222,399 visits, the highest number in its history, making it the #1 paid city attraction.
- The Zeiterion Theatre welcomed 135,000 visitors.
- Festival Theater productions were viewed by 35,000.
- Visits to the Wharfinger Building Visitor Center were up by 10% over 2007.
- American Cruise Line visited the Port 21 times in 2008, bringing 1,458 passengers on these voyages.
- The internationally renowned Feast of the Blessed Sacrament saw over 160,000 visitors.
- New Bedford saw a successful and well-attended 4th of July weekend of festivities, including the annual “Summerfest” event and Cape Verdean Recognition Day parade, with a combined attendance of over 35,000 visitors.
- From July to October alone, the City of New Bedford was home to over 18 festivals and 49 special events.
- Day of Portugal saw 125,000 attendees
- Whaling City Festival saw 150,000 attendees
- Gospel Music Festival saw 1,010 attendees
- Working Waterfront Festival saw 2,000 attendees
- Annual Seaport Chowder Festival saw 5,000 attendees
- Taste our SouthCoast saw 1,500 attendees

Tourism Activity

- The Office of Tourism developed a new brochure to promote the city's attributes to potential visitors.
- The Office of Tourism developed specialized itineraries for domestic and international travel writers, based upon their interests and the publications for which they worked.
- In October, the city hosted the Bioneers Conference, convening social and scientific innovators to share breakthrough solutions to the challenges of sustainability and other issues. The conference was one of 17 held nationally, bringing over 1,000 people to downtown New Bedford.
- The Office of Tourism spearheaded the design of an exhibit highlighting New Bedford for the Big E (Eastern States Exhibition) in West Springfield. The Big E is the largest tourism conference in New England, lasting 17 days and attracting over a million visitors.
- The City was the site of the filming of *Homeland*, a short independent feature film.
- Facilitated the filming of a music video by MyGoodEye: Music Visuals in the Orpheum Theater.
- The producers of *Deadliest Catch* and NBC Television filmed a special about sword fishing featuring Linda Greenlaw, an author best known for her participation in the *Perfect Storm*.
- The Lone Wolf Documentary Group filmed a special on the ocean and ocean currents.
- Downstream Productions filmed a documentary called *Living Downstream*.
- The City hosted 2 Cape Cod Baseball league games in the summer of 2008, drawing over two thousand spectators.
- After a nationwide search, a new director was hired to lead the Buttonwood Park Zoo.
- The zoo revised its Mission Statement to clearly reflect conservation goals.
- On Sept 14, 2008, the zoo achieved reaccreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.
- The City and the Zoological Society finalized and signed a Memorandum of Understanding, after several years of negotiations. This MOU ensures a strong partnership for the future.
- Zoo and Zoo Society staff, along with Torre Design, one of the leading Zoo design firms in the world, began working on a Master Plan to preserve its status as one of the premier zoos in the country.

- The Zoo caretakers have implemented a comprehensive animal training and enrichment program.
- The City launched the Zoo Ambassadors program, which provides the public a chance to interact with volunteers who have been intensively trained to be knowledgeable about specific animals. This kind of interaction between staff and the public has been shown to help connect people to nature and enhance public understanding of wildlife and the conservation of the places animals live.
- The zoo applied for a USDA Research Facility designation, which will make it eligible to apply for federal research grants.
- The zoo was selected to represent small zoos in a major national initiative, *Connecting to Collections*, by the federal government to educate the public on the value of museums and living collections.
- In October, the zoo hosted its first international conference, the Association of Zoo Veterinary Technicians Annual Conference.
- The zoo continues to actively publish scientific papers and make presentations at professional meetings, which promotes and highlights its position of one of the nation's premier zoos.

Transportation Improvements

- Governor Deval Patrick announced that the SouthCoast Rail project, establishing a commuter rail link between Boston and New Bedford/Fall River, would be completed by 2016. With the city's legislative delegation, Mayor Lang continued to advocate for expedited service.
- The Acushnet Avenue Reconstruction Project neared completion.
- In January of 2008 the Airport hired a new manager to bring a multi-faceted, multi-tiered approach to overall airport management and operation. The Airport Commission empowered the new airport manager to resolve a host of outstanding issues as well as bring a new forward, pragmatic approach to lead the airport toward financial independence and become an economic engine for the region.
- The Airport adopted a vision for airport runway safety improvements that will assure compliance with FAA safety standards, enhance safety, and attract more operations. The vision abandons any changes to New Plainville Road and minimizes impacts to wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas. This has moved the safety enhancement project, stymied for nearly 15 years, forward.
- The Airport updated its airport layout plan (ALP). This document, which is approved by the FAA, is the primary planning document used by airports.
- Bridgewater State College signed a five-year lease to use the former Plumber's Building on Shawmut Avenue as a flight academy. Bridgewater will provide

flight training to students enrolled in its aviation program. Bridgewater is making a sizeable investment in the facility and has 9 aircraft on-site, with immediate plans for 2 additional aircraft. FAA certification was received in December and flight operations formally began in January of 2009. More than 180 students are enrolled in the program.

- A \$660,000 pavement repair and runway markings project was completed in August. The project received 97.5 percent funding from federal and state sources. The repairs will provide at least a 5-year life extension on the primary instrument runway. The runway is overdue for a complete re-build, which is presently anticipated immediately after the runway safety areas are completed in the 2011-2012 timeframe.
- Budget Rent-a-Car opened, giving the airport the presence of two national rental-car companies and additional revenue.
- The airport obtained, with 80 percent state financing, a phragmites (a highly invasive reed) mowing system approved by the New Bedford Conservation Commission for operating in the airport's many acres of wetlands on airport property. The equipment is allowing restoration and revitalization of the wet meadows surrounding the airport without the use of chemicals or herbicides. Goldenrod, joe pieweed and other native plants are returning to the meadows.
- With 100% financing from the Department of Homeland Security, the airport installed a sophisticated airplane detection and monitoring system. The system can be used for law enforcement, search and rescue and landing fee collection.
- The airport received approval for federal funding of an updated master plan to meet the environmental challenges of the airport and maximize growth potential. The formal planning process will begin in 2011.
- The airport, the University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth Pavement Research Center and the FAA Technical Center in Atlantic City NJ began a collaboration to conduct pavement research at the airport to identify strategies for maximizing the life of pavement at the least cost. Congressman Barney Frank was instrumental in supporting the collaboration with \$100,000 for start-up costs and initial engineering.

Workforce Investment

- In 2008, Greater New Bedford Career Center services and programs reached 8,333 New Bedford job seekers and 11,904 job seekers overall, of whom 1,018 New Bedford job seekers and 1,454 job seekers in total reported that they entered employment.
- Career Center customer visits totaled more than 55,000.

- The Greater New Bedford Career Center assisted 626 area employers in finding qualified job applicants.
- 578 New Bedford youth, and 635 youth in total, participated in Career Center and New Directions programming.
- In 2008, Mayor Lang secured a \$25,000 Special Grant from Secretary Bump, Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development to bridge education and workforce development programming. In part, this funding will allow 15 city residents to receive training, and has paid for 45 residents to receive environmental clean-up certifications.
- Allocated \$30,000 in a Tuition Reduction Program based on Mayor Lang's goal of enrolling more people into Adult Basic Education classes at the lowest cost possible. To date the program has provided support for 143 students and 339 courses at a cost of \$18,902.
- Through a grant of \$40,215, local technicians were trained in weatherization techniques including lower door testing, heat loss detection, and building science principles.
- Working with regional partners, The Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board secured a \$700,000 grant to train individuals scheduled for reentry from prison with practical work skills.
- With a YouthWorks grant of \$238,000, facilitated opportunities for over 130 New Bedford youth with subsidized summer employment at local businesses.
- Advanced Manufacturing Initiative: Concluded the second year of the Advanced Manufacturing Initiative, a \$499,923 grant funded through the Workforce Competitiveness Trust Fund, where more than 550 existing workers in 4 New Bedford based manufacturing companies (AFC, Aerovox, Precix, and Nameplates for Industry) and Lockheed Martin Sippican in Marion, as well as 84 unemployed workers, were trained to operate in an advanced manufacturing environment.
- Literacy Summit: Held the area's first Literacy Summit to showcase over 60 local providers for New Bedford residents. Residents and businesses participated in breakout sessions and residents received information on free and low-cost programs that help them learn English, improve job skills, get into a college program, help with childcare, transportation and everyday problems.

TOWARD A STRONGER NEW BEDFORD

Building a Sense of Community

2008 Overview:

With the support of an engaged, industrious citizenry, New Bedford has made tremendous progress toward the key objectives I outlined in my very first Inaugural Address. Together we will continue to make our city safe, prepare our children for the challenges of the future, create more and better job opportunities, and restore the vitality of our neighborhoods.

I have previously outlined the following objectives to build New Bedford's sense of community:

- Promote trust in city government.
- Conduct open decision-making processes.
- Value input from community members.
- Communicate ideas and initiatives.

Throughout the year, in many different areas and on many important initiatives, public participation has determined the course of our city. This year, community input was an important part of the selection of a new Superintendent of Schools, and many citizens contributed valuable ideas to the Mayor's Sustainability Task Force Report, a document that will help our city to adopt more energy-efficient and environmentally sound policies. The November 2008 election saw one of the highest voter turn outs in the city's recent history.

In 2009, my administration will continue to work to engage the residents of our city. We are eager to obtain their feedback, draw on their energy, and integrate their innovative ideas into the many important projects we will embark on this year.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & INITIATIVES:

Building Relationships and Opening Up City Hall

- Governor Deval Patrick, Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray, Attorney General Martha Coakley, Treasurer Timothy Cahill, and several Cabinet secretaries visited the city on numerous occasions for working meetings, public meetings, and announcements of grant awards and new initiatives.
- Mayor Lang met regularly with Senator Edward Kennedy, Senator John Kerry, and Congressman Barney Frank, as well as their staff members, to advance New Bedford's priorities at the federal level.

- Participated in the National Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting in Washington D.C., serving on the committees of Metro Economies and Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment & Sports.
- Mayor Lang was elected to serve on the Local Government Advisory Council, meeting with the Governor or Lieutenant Governor on a monthly basis, and served on the board of the Massachusetts Municipal Association.
- Every month, Senator Mark Montigny, Representative Robert Koczera, Representative Antonio Cabral, Representative John Quinn, and Representative Stephen Canessa met with Mayor Lang at City Hall to discuss state policy affecting the City.
- Along with Mayor Ruberto of Pittsfield, Mayor Lang was appointed co-chair of the Gateway Cities Coalition (through the Urban Initiative at UMass Dartmouth) to advocate at the state level for policies that will benefit New Bedford.
- The City of New Bedford hosted a Massachusetts Municipal Association Legislative Meeting in October, attended by local officials and legislators from the southeastern Massachusetts region to discuss local finance and economic policy.
- The City continued to actively support cultural events honoring diversity, including flag raisings for countries from around the globe, varied religious, cultural, and recreational festivals, holiday parades, and ceremonial events celebrating the strength of all of New Bedford's communities.
- The City and the United Way of Greater New Bedford teamed with other area community organizations to launch a new campaign to increase volunteerism in New Bedford. The campaign, funded by a Massachusetts Service Alliance grant, grew out of the "Great Ideas" forum series Mayor Scott W. Lang initiated during the 2005 transition. The newly created "GIVING Network," a consortium of civic organizations, non-profit agencies and grass-roots initiatives dedicated to promoting a culture of volunteerism in Greater New Bedford, is leading the campaign through the creation of a volunteer opportunity database.
- The Charles S. Ashley Civic Meeting Room and the Rosalind Poll Brooker Meeting Room continue to be heavily utilized for city and community meetings.
- The City launched its new website, redesigned to enhance the ease of access to information for the public.
- New Bedford Cable Access recently upgraded the lighting system in its large studio. The new lights are considered to be "green", as they use much less power than the former lighting system (they are fluorescent lights) and the lighting instruments themselves are made from 80% recycled material.

- Educational and Government Access produced a combined 395 new programs for public viewing.
- Through the basic television production course, Public Access staff taught basic camera operations and editing techniques to 75 community members.
- Cable Access has purchased and outfitted a production van, which has enabled staff to do more live and on-location productions, including a live Christmas show from the Whaling Museum and the Moby Dick Marathon. The van also makes our usual field productions, such as high school sports, much easier and saves on staff time.
- Public Access is continuing its movie series, and has over 75 different programs airing weekly.
- Mayor Scott W. Lang continued to weekly appearances as a guest on WBSM AM 1420 radio during the “Ask the Mayor” segment to update the citizens and answer their questions live on the air. The City also hosted a monthly live radio show at City Hall featuring the mayor and city department heads to provide New Bedford residents with a broad overview of the activities of local government.
- Mayor Scott W. Lang appeared regularly on WJFD 97.3 FM radio to report to the people the City’s activities.
- Mayor Scott W. Lang continued to write a bi-monthly column on New Bedford for *The Weekly Compass*.
- The City implemented an email archival and retrieval process to ensure compliance with federal regulations regarding public information and disclosure laws.

Opening the Decision-Making Process to the Public

- The Mayor’s Sustainability Task Force formulated dozens of goals and hundreds of recommendations to improve energy-efficient and environmentally sound policies in New Bedford, focusing on actions that government, businesses and organizations, and individuals can take. Implementation of selected recommendations will begin in 2009.
- Fostered public participation and encouraged community input in the search process for a new Superintendent of New Bedford Public Schools through community forums, focus groups and a public survey, and held public interviews of the finalists for the position. The panel conducting the public interviews consisted of community members in addition to School Committee members.

Voting and Elections

- Between the primary and general elections, 4,117 new voters were registered.
- In November, 34,327, or 62% of registered New Bedford voters participated in the election.
- The New Bedford Elections Office began to accept applications for United States passports, accepting 631 applications in 2008, increasing the services offered at City Hall to the residents of New Bedford and generating local and federal revenue.
- For the third year in a row, New Bedford youth conducted a summer voter registration drive funded in part by a \$10,000 grant awarded to the Elections Office by the Secretary of State William Francis Galvin.
- The City of New Bedford actively supported the “Your Vote is Magic” campaign, a non-partisan initiative to increase voter awareness and participation.
- Developed computerized in-house voting location look-up system to more quickly answer the inquiries of City residents prior to the presidential primary and general elections.

In 2008, the following elected officials served the people of New Bedford:

President George W. Bush
Vice-President Richard Cheney

Senator Edward M. Kennedy
Senator John F. Kerry
Congressman Barney Frank

Governor Deval Patrick
Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray
Secretary of the Commonwealth William Francis Galvin
Auditor A. Joseph DeNucci
Treasurer Timothy P. Cahill
Governor's Councilor Carole A. Fiola

Registrar of Probate Robert Peck
Register of Deeds J. Mark Treadup
Sheriff Thomas Hodgson
County Commissioner Maria Lopes
County Commissioner Christopher Saunders
County Commissioner Paul Kitchen

District Attorney Sam Sutter

State Senator Mark C. Montigny
State Representative Robert M. Koczera
State Representative Antonio F. D. Cabral
State Representative John F. Quinn
State Representative Stephen R. Canessa

Mayor Scott W. Lang

New Bedford City Council

Ward One City Councilor Linda M. Morad
Ward Two City Councilor Steve Martins
Ward Three City Councilor Kathy Dehner
Ward Four City Councilor Bruce Duarte
Ward Five City Councilor Jane L. Gonsalves
Ward Six City Councilor Wendy Pimental
Councilor-At-Large David Alves
Councilor-At-Large Debora Coelho
Councilor-At-Large Brian K. Gomes
Councilor-At-Large Denis Lawrence, Jr.
Councilor-At-Large John T. Saunders

New Bedford School Committee

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Mayor Scott W. Lang | |
| Thomas Clark | Dr. John Fletcher |
| Jack Nobrega | Marlene Pollock |
| Eric Pope | Jill Ussach |

Assessors

Marty Treadup
Peter E. Berthiaume
Robert Pacheco